1: Blackwood E-5 (1929-1930) 1935
ON6 Buka ON6
Kurtatchi

Measurements of Dug-out Canoes

501

Measurement.	Small. ft.	Small. in.	Medium. ft.	Medium. in.	Large. ft.	Large. in.
Max. length from end to end	19	9	23	9	24	5½
Depth, rim to ground when flat on beach	1	3½	1	4½	1	6½
Depth, rim to centre inside		10½	1	0	1	5
Width of rim		½		½		½
Width of canoe from rim to rim (inside)		6½		7½		8
Length of outrigger booms		3½	9	4	9	3½
Length of outrigger float	8	9	10	3	9	8
Circumference of outrigger float		9½		10½	1	0½

Further details concerning the medium-sized canoe are as follows: there are nine poles in the platform, including the two booms; they average 4 inches in circumference, and are braced by four cross-bars, each about 1 ft. 1 in. in length, projecting slightly at either side over the width of the platform, which is 12 inches. The height of the platform above the float is 10½ inches. The four stick attachments fastening the booms to the float measure 2 ft. 5 in., and extend 11 inches above the top of the platform.

483 In moving a fair-sized half-finished canoe from the bush where the initial stages of its manufacture have been carried on to the beach where the outrigger is fitted, a rope of twisted creeper will be fixed to one of the ends, and a number of boys, or sometimes [401] women, will pull it along, small logs being used as rollers. A small half-finished canoe, without outrigger, can be dragged along by one man, or carried, with some effort, on his shoulder. A man will not attempt to carry a complete outrigged canoe alone. If no help is available he holds it by the outrigger-booms near the hull and drags one end along the ground. Usually two men carry it, each taking one end, the outrigger being left free, or held by a third. The outriggers are frequently damaged in use, and require 501 replacement.

Method of use. Although both ends of the canoe are identical in shape, one end always serves as bow and the other as stern, because under ordinary circumstances the canoe is paddled on the right-hand side with the outrigger on the left. But exceptionally I have seen men poling canoes with a fish spear, in which case they have used the spear in the interval between the canoe and the outrigger float, keeping the outrigger on the right.

The paddler sits athwart the canoe, his buttocks resting on both

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396 and put on a stand consisting of logs (*papan*) resting on forked [417] sticks (*atōn*) at a height convenient for working. It is now turned over again, so that the end of the *lamut* curves upwards. Some [824] strong creeper (*wawal*) is tied round the bottom plank, threaded through between the two adjacent planks, and fastened round the *papan*, so as to fix the canoe securely to the stand. Lengths of creeper are also passed through between the side planks. These side planks are now pressed outwards by pushing between them a couple of stout sticks about 2 feet long, pushing against one side [401] while resting the other end of the sticks against the other side. Suddenly the whole thing opens with a cracking noise. The outer planks are then pulled down and tied firmly to the supporting logs by means of the strings threaded between them. This pulls them still farther apart, till all five lie almost in a flat plane. Some considerable pressure is needed to pull down the second side after the first side is secured. Both ends of what are now the outer planks are then tied firmly round their tips, binding them together and to the end-keel.

386 Women or boys are now pressed into service for grinding up
396 the 'putty nut'. This is done on lumps of brain coral. When
824 freshly ground it is of a pinkish-yellow colour, but rapidly turns red. In a few days it has become dark red, and in a few weeks quite black, and very hard. It must be used when freshly picked and freshly grated, and must be put on rapidly in the shade, as it begins to harden very quickly. It is thickly plastered over all the seams, on both sides, by means of the worker's fingers (Pl. 51 *a*, *b*). There is then an interval of several days to allow the seams to harden.

396 When work is resumed, the supporting sticks are removed, and the holes which were left because of their presence when the seams were 'puttied' are filled in. In cutting the third pair of planks (*bátawa*) a ledge (*bĕbĕkil*) is left running inwards for about a foot from each end. Holes are made in these ledges opposite one another, the distances between them, about 2½ inches, being carefully measured with a piece of fibre. Short, stout braces (also called *bĕbĕkil*) are wedged in between the planks, and tied into place through these holes. After being placed in position, the *bĕbĕkil* are served with *asam* over their whole length. Six is the usual number for a small or medium-sized *mon*. Their object is to strengthen the canoe at its slender, pointed ends.